GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3998
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2000
FORTIFICATION OF FOOD PROGRAMME
JAI PRAKASH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the absence of food fortification programme, a large part of population have been affected with serious health disorder like anaemia, night blindness etc.;

(b) whether there is no legislation on food fortification;

(c) if so, whether the Government feels it necessary to adopt a policy of fortifying foods like Atta, Cereal etc. and selling it at subsidized rates through Public Distribution System; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. However, to control micronutrient deficiencies prevalent in the country the Government is implementing programme with strategies of supplementing, fortification and dietary diversification. Under prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955, standards of iodised salt and iron fortified salt have been laid down.

(c) & (d): So far as distribution of fortified atta instead of wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) at country level is concerned, it is opertionally not feasible because of very short shelf-life of the product and long chain of distribution. Besides, only a small part of wheat/wheat product for consumption of the country`s population is in the central pool. Further atta is only popular in northern States of the country. Some State Governments have been distributing atta under PDS depending upon local preferences.